



Transportation Advisory Board

MARICOPA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MINUTES Tuesday, October 19, 2021

The meeting was held and recorded as a GoToMeeting:
<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/714994245>

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS ATTENDED VIRTUALLY

John Repar (Dist. 1)	Present
Phil Clement (Dist. 2)	Present
Wes Gullet (Dist. 3)	Present
Merlyn Carlson (Dist. 4)	Present
Kerry Duskin (Dist. 5)	Present

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT ATTENDED VIRTUALLY

Jennifer Toth, Director
Jesse Gutierrez, Deputy Director
Wayne Peck, County Attorney's Office
Mitch Wagner, Board Liaison
Denise Lacey, Planning Branch Manager
Steven Wilcox, Engineering Division Manager
Randy Dunsey, Project Management Branch Manager
Kellee Salas, TAB Coordinator
Margaret Gianfarcaro, TAB Administrator

REGULAR BUSINESS

1. CALL TO ORDER

Wes Gullet, TAB Chairman, called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

John Repar, Board Member, led the pledge of allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Kellee Salas, the TAB Coordinator, led the roll call.

In virtual attendance: Wes Gullet, John Repar, Phil Clement, Kerry Duskin, and Merlyn Carlson

A quorum was present.

4. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Kellee Salas, the TAB Coordinator, did not receive requests to speak at the Call to the Public.

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Board Member Clement made A MOTION, and Board Member Carlson SECONDED to approve the minutes of the August 17, 2021 meeting. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

GENERAL BUSINESS

To accommodate Board Member Repar's schedule, Agenda item #8 was presented first to allow all Board Members to vote on the recommendation.

6. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Director Jennifer Toth gave an update highlighting several items:

- Director Toth began discussing the 2021 Combined Charitable Campaign. MCDOT's donations were up 51% from last year for a total of \$13,321 with a participation rate of 21%.
- Employee Gustav Danielson's name was placed on the monument in downtown Phoenix in front of Superior Courts, representing the employees killed in the line of duty.
- We have lost two employees this past year due to Covid-19, Ben Mueller, and Gabriel Yslava.
- We continue to follow the current CDC guidelines for MCDOT protocols for employee safety. MCDOT has initiated an incentive program to encourage vaccinations.
- MCDOT continues maintenance cleanup from recent storms including New River Area, Desert Hills, Gila Bend, and Sun City. We have made incredible progress in those areas and are back to our normal maintenance schedule.
- Several MCDOT employees were recipients of awards this year:
 - Faisal Saleem received the Trevor O. Jones Outstanding Paper Award from SAE International.
 - Traci Ruth received the Woman of the Year from the Advancing Women in Transportation (WTS).
 - The Northern Parkway project from Loop 101 to Grand Avenue Scoping Document as a recipient for the Engineering Excellence Award including the Project Manager, Ben Markert from the ACEC Arizona.

7. MCDOT'S COORDINATION WITH REGIONAL PARTNERS

Traci Ruth, Division Manager, Strategic Communications and Outreach Division discussed MCDOT's coordination efforts with its regional partners; information requested by TAB Board Members.

- The County is in a unique situation, while there are thousands of miles of roads in Maricopa County, not all of the roads are Maricopa County roads. Many of our County maintained and operated roads are outside of local jurisdiction boundaries such as the roads in the New River and Desert Hills areas. Some of the roads within Maricopa County's transportation system are found within city limits. These unincorporated pockets of land and the adjacent roads are commonly referred to as County islands. Ms. Ruth showed maps indicating County islands.
- When road improvements are needed on a stretch of road we collaborate with our neighboring partners to agreed-upon design and cost-sharing. We also ask the jurisdiction if they would be interested in annexing the road which would transfer the responsibility of maintenance and operation of the road to the city or town.
- Ms. Ruth showed a map of Tempe, Chandler, Mesa, Gilbert, and Queen Creek showing the County islands and emphasizing the need for the County to collaborate with its neighboring jurisdictions. This collaboration leads to smart government, lends itself to the sharing of resources and provides for an opportunity for agencies and jurisdictions within Maricopa County to look for creative and cost-saving solutions that benefit the residents, businesses, and visitors to the region.
- Collaboration isn't limited to local jurisdictions. Many of the other entities that we partner within the course of our work include the Federal Highway Administration, the Arizona Department of Transportation, the Maricopa Association of Governments, and the University of Arizona. MCDOT has more opportunities to partner in the West Valley as more of the property in that area in that region is unincorporated.
- Another key partner that MCDOT collaborates with is developers. This is especially true in the West Valley as it is growing rapidly. MCDOT partners with the cities and their developers to improve the roads to account for the additional traffic their businesses will bring to the area. Glendale and Buckeye are two of the areas where we are actively working with developers to support the economic growth of the region.
- MCDOT meets with its partners regularly. Our Intergovernmental Branch, is the organization's ambassador to our partners. They hold regular coordination meetings to keep the lines of communication open and to facilitate effective informed and timely decisions between agencies. These meetings take place quarterly, bi-annual basis, or an as-needed basis depending upon the needs of the partner. Additional meetings are held between our project and construction managers regarding specific projects where a more focused discussion is needed to take place. When the partners determine that a formalized agreement is needed our Intergovernmental Liaisons are responsible for working with both sides negotiating and drawing up the agreement and ushering the agreement through the legal process including the Board of Supervisor approval. These agreements describe relationships, define authority and seek to achieve efficiencies through cooperation.

Intergovernmental Agreements can be made between or among a broad range of governmental or quasi-governmental entities. Most governments use IGAs for cooperative planning, resource sharing, and more. Some of our standard agreements are inter-governmental agreements, inter-departmental agreements which take place within the County, ententes, letters of agreement, right-of-way assistance agreements, project agreements, and joint project agreements.

- Collaborations without formal agreements take place regularly at MCDOT. One example of how we collaborate with our partners in the Transportation System Planning process. Whenever we are planning for future transportation systems, we engage all stakeholders including jurisdictions, residents, businesses, and service providers to ensure that we are sharing vital information that will support our economic growth and desire to support a seamless transportation system.
- Once our Planning has identified projects with our partners the next step in the process is to design and build the project. This is when many of our intergovernmental agreements are needed to define roles, responsibilities, cost-sharing information, and future ownership.
- One of the great efficiencies of our intergovernmental agreements is our entente agreements. Entente agreements provide for the sharing of maintenance equipment and resources across the County. These agreements typically focus on a set of services such as street sweeping, striping, grading, or storm repairs.
- Another of our key partners in the region is the Arizona Department of Transportation or ADOT. MCDOT has partnered with ADOT on several key projects, however, we do serve as stakeholders on key projects that ADOT has that are specific to ensure that the County and the voice of its residents are represented.
- Another key regional partner for us is the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG). MAG is the metropolitan planning organization (MPO) for the County. An MPO is the policy board of an organization that is created to carry out the metropolitan transportation planning process. MAG provides guidance and standards for many transportation programs including the regional transportation plan that is funded through the half-cent sales tax initiative. They also give guidance on transit and air quality programs such as our PM10 program. We collaborate with MAG and receive funding from them for our Arterial Life Cycle Program which provides funding to widen streets, improve intersections, and construct new arterial roadway segments.
- The Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community, the Gila River Indian Community, and the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation are also located within Maricopa County and are important partners with MCDOT. Since each of these communities are sovereign nations our collaboration with them is different than other jurisdictions, we must respect and follow their tribal laws as well as Federal regulations. MCDOT works well with these communities. We also have an entente agreement with the Gila River Indian Community to provide services.
- One of the unique organizations in the metropolitan Phoenix area is AZTech. AZTech is a partnership made up of ADOT, MCDOT, MAG, and the jurisdictional partners in the County whose sole purpose is to improve roadway operations and traveler information through the use of intelligent traffic systems. They all come together regularly to share practices,

demonstrate new technology, and establish common procedures to help create a seamless transportation network in the valley.

- One of the projects that AZTech has brought to be is the Bell Road corridor. MCDOT partnered with several jurisdictions and agencies to install adaptive signal control technology on 50 signals along a 16 mile stretch of Bell Road. As a result, motorists have experienced fewer delays and a reduction in travel times. Currently, underway MCDOT, ADOT, and several AZTech partners across the County are coming together to construct the Loop 101 Mobility Partnership which will feature a variety of Intelligent Transportation tools to improve mobility on Loop 101 during traffic incidents and special events.
- Another area where MCDOT collaborates with its partners here as well as nationally is the Anthem Test Bed and all things that are connected with autonomous vehicles. One recent way we are collaborating is with the Smarter Work Zone Connected Vehicle Program. MCDOT and ADOT are the recipients of a \$200,000 Federal Grant that will be used to implement smarter work zones in the regent. The key objective of this project is to increase safety, improve the quality and consistency of the data that is being collected, modernize processes and automate data, and transition the agency feeds into the Federal specification.
- One final collaborative effort is MCDOT's Regional Emergency Action Coordination Team (REACT). Motorists and commuters in Maricopa County depend heavily on our arterial roads to get them where they want to go, especially if there is an incident on the freeway or a special event taking place in the valley. 60% of Maricopa County's traffic volume is on arterial roads and with such high traffic volumes, it quickly became apparent that there was a need to provide traffic management support on these roads. In 1999 in collaboration with AZTech, MCDOT created REACT.

8. ENHANCED REGULATORY OUTREACH PROGRAM (EROP) HEARING – ORDINANCE ADDRESSING REQUIREMENTS FOR PERMITS TO WORK IN RIGHT-OF-WAY

Denise Lacey, Transportation Systems Planning Branch Manager, discussed the Ordinance Addressing the Requirements for Permits to Work in the County Right-of-Way.

- Ms. Lacey reminded the Board of the EROP process. The EROP process was put in place by Policy A1518 in 2013. The purpose of that policy was to provide a comprehensive process to allow multiple opportunities for stakeholder input on regulatory requirements. We are in the EROP at this time with the proposed ordinance and we have followed every regulation that has gone toward that requirement.
- Ms. Lacey stated that the purpose of this resolution process was to lessen the regulatory burden on development while continuing to serve the transportation needs of the region. Two resolutions exist:
 - Resolution 2001-01: Permits to Work in Dedicated Maricopa County Right-of-Way.
 - Resolution 2001-02: Street Improvements, Installation of Utilities, and Traffic Control.

These are the two resolutions that we wanted to look at to see where we had discrepancies and modify that information and bring it into an ordinance.

That ordinance is meant to reference policies, procedures, and other guiding documents to minimize confusion as things change in the future.

- We formed a project team internally at MCDOT that included Engineering, Permits, Constructions & Inspections, Strategic Communications & Outreach, Transportation Systems Management, and Maintenance. We also included representatives from Planning & Development, the County Attorney, and Stakeholders including the Association of Central of Arizona, Arizona Chapter of Associated General Contractors, and the Arizona Homebuilders Association.
- On 8/8/2017 we held an initial meeting with our stakeholders to discuss what we were going to do. The discussion we had with the stakeholders focused on the challenges that they were experiencing with the current resolutions and the guidance provided to them by staff members and other guidelines. Those focused mainly on our perimeter streets and what were the requirements for development, when did those requirements have to be put into place. The requirements for traffic impact studies, when are they needed, how did they have to be designed. And conflicting information from other documents that were out there such as the Maricopa Association of Governments standard detailed information and others. What we had in those resolutions might conflict with things that were updated, such as our roadway design manual that are updated based on good engineering principles and standards. Also, we wanted to look at dated information to be sure it was applicable and that we did not put in something that would expire and need to be updated in the future.
- After the Stakeholder input, the Technical Team process started. We had a document review, we researched and compared existing standards. We had Stakeholder input by email, someone-on-one discussions. Also, the County Attorney did a constant review of everything that we are putting out there.
- On 12/15/20 we had a Stakeholder Review meeting which was held virtually due to Covid-19. The meeting discussed the MCDOT's staffs redlines, we wanted to address their concerns, clarification of anything that was changed, and if we needed to modify any language. Based on the information we got, MCDOT staff went back and began some additional revisions.
- On 3/8/21 we held an additional stakeholder review meeting. We reviewed the requested changes to be sure we got it right.
- On 6/17/21 we had a final Stakeholder meeting, we discussed some slight final revisions. At that time we achieved agreement from all our stakeholders that what we were presenting met our original intent.
- Results of this four-year effort. We combined two documents into one. Reduced the document from 36 pages to 12 pages. We added definitions or updated information for clarity, removed conflicting information, removed duplication of standards, and provided references to other standards such as:
 - MAG Standards
 - Roadway Design Manual
 - Development Ordinance
 - Other regulating documents

Board Member Carlson made a MOTION, and Board Member Repar SECONDED to make a recommendation; As required by the Enhanced Regulatory Outreach Process, the Transportation Advisory Board recommends that the changes to the Ordinance

Addressing Requirements for Permits to Work in Right-of-Way be submitted to the Board of Supervisors for adoption. MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date is Tuesday, December 21, 2021, at 11:00 a.m.

10. REQUEST FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None at this time.

11. CALL TO ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 11:48 a.m.